

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6089

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL

1. PRIMIN WHITLAM AT OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION IN SYDNEY JULY 4 ANNOUNCED THE FORMS WHICH GOA PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL WILL TAKE. HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL. THEY ARE (A) ESTABLISHMENT BY HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND FUNDING BY GOA OF A PERMANENT CHAIR OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES AT THAT INSTITUTION. BELIEVE COST IS APPROXIMATELY AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS ONE MILLION, BUT DO NOT HAVE FIRM FIGURES. (B) FUNDING DURING 1976 OF NON-ACADEMIC BICENTENNIAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM MODELED IN PART AFTER EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS, UNDER WHICH AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN VARIOUS FIELDS, E.G., AGRICULTURE, THE ARTS, TRADE UNIONS, WOULD COME TO AUSTRALIA AS GUESTS OF GOA. AVERAGE DURATION GRANT APPROXIMATELY SIX WEEKS. (C) VISIT TO U.S. DURING 1976 OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND "OTHER (UNSPECIFIED) PERFORMING GROUPS". (D) ACCEPTANCE BY GOA OF INVITATION FROM SMITHSONIAN TO ACCEPT AN AUSTRALIAN EXHIBIT DEALING WITH HISTORICAL TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. RELATED BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITY IS AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SPONSORED BY AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR A SUITABLE MEMORIAL IN CANBERRA TO WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN, THE AMERICAN PLANNER WHOSE DESIGN FOR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CAPITOL IS STILL BEING
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FOLLOWED AS CANBERRA DEVELOPS. MEMORIAL MAY BE LANDSCAPE,

FOUNTAIN, OTHER SCULPTURAL DESIGN. HOPE IS THAT MANY AMERICANS MAY COMPETE FOR DESIGN PRIZES AND PARTICIPATION BY DESIGNER IN FINAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

3. PRIMIN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER TO BE BICENTENNIAL GUEST TO AUSTRALIA IN 1976, HOPEFULLY DURING MARCH-APRIL PERIOD OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL IN SYDNEY UNDER MAIN SPONSORSHIP OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. HE INDICATED THE VICE-PRESIDENT "HAD ACCEPTED". WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE ON THIS.
GREEN

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